

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-04 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 FEA-01 AEC-05 COME-00 FPC-01 INT-05 SAM-01

OES-02 FRB-01 PC-01 IO-10 /090 W
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R 091100Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5980

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, BC, US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM'S VISIT TO BOTSWANA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM SPENT NOV 6-8 IN BOTSWANA CALLING ON PRESIDENT KHAMA, VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE AND OTHERS AND VISITING IMPORTANT BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION ABATTOIR IN LOBATSE. MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOGWE HOSTED LARGE RECEPTION. VISIT WAS CONCLUDED WITH PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT EMBASSY.

2. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS ONE HOUR FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MEETING
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WITH PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA DURING WHICH KHAMA

EXPRESSED SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN AID AND STRESSED HIS POLICY TO BE MODEL OF NON-RACIAL DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HIS PROHIBITION AGAINST THE USE OF BOTSWANA'S TERRITORY BY ARMED INSURGENTS. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM REGARDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE REPORTED FORTHCOMING VISIT OF ADMIRAL JOHNSON WHICH HAS BEEN PLAYED IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PRESS IN JUXTAPOSITION WITH OTHER SECURITY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE SIMONSTOWN NAVAL BASE. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RATIONALE FOR VETOING SOUTH AFRICAN EXPULSION IN ORDER TO ALLOW CONTINUED DIALOGUE RATHER THAN CLOSE THE DOOR. END SUMMARY.

3. SCHEDULE FOR EASUM VISIT INCLUDED CALLS ON PRESIDENT KHAMA, VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING MASIRE WITH HIS STAFF, MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS SEGOKGO AND NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOGWE ON NOV 7. NOV 8 WAS TAKEN UP WITH VISIT TO IMPORTANT BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION ABATTOIR IN LOBATSE WHICH ENABLED HIM TO OBSERVE MAJOR EXPORT EARNER.

4. DISCUSSIONS WITH KHAMA TOUCHED ON FULL RANGE OF AFRICAN ISSUES. KHAMA WAS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OF U.S. AID WHICH ALLOWS HIM TO "EDUCATE BIG BROTHER NEXT DOOR." HE ENCOURAGED THE U.S. TO INCREASE AID TO NON-RACIAL SOCIETIES WHICH ALLOW THEM TO BE MODEL FOR MINORITY-RULED GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA. HE APOLOGIZED FOR EXPRESSING SOME SKEPTICISM FOR CONTRAST BETWEEN AMERICAN WORDS AND DEEDS. IN THIS CONTEXT HE REFERRED TO STATED POLICIES TOWARD NAMIBIA OF RECOGNIZING THE WORLD COURT DECISION BUT AT THE SAME TIME NOT PROHIBITING AMERICAN INVESTMENT. SIMILARLY HE CRITICIZED OUR ACKNOWLEDGING THE U.N. SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA WHILE CONTINUING TO IMPORT CHROME FROM THAT COUNTRY. AMONG OTHER NETTLESOME PROBLEMS HIS ADVISERS MENTIONED THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE WHICH IS ALLOWED TO OPERATE. KHAMA THEN HIMSELF REFERRED TO THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN OUR NON-COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON MILITARY MATTERS AND THE REPORTED IMMINENT VISIT OF ADMIRAL JOHNSON TO THE U.S. WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS HAS ASSOCIATED
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WITH WESTERN CONCERNS REGARDING THE SIMONSTOWN NAVAL BASE.

5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM RESPONDED TO THESE CONCERNS BY NOTING THAT OUR POLICY WAS TO DISCOURAGE AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN NAMIBIA BUT THAT WE HAD NO MECHANISM TO PROHIBIT SUCH INVESTMENTS THERE OR ANYWHERE. HE DESCRIBED THE SEPARATION BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BRANCHES WHICH ALLOWED CONGRESS TO PASS A LAW WHICH VOIDED THE EMBARGO

ON RHODESIAN CHROME BUT ASSURED KHAMA THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS CAMPAIGNING WITH SOME HOPE OF SUCCESS TO RESCIND THAT LEGISLATION. FINALLY WITH REGARD TO ADMIRAL JOHNSON, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOTED THAT IN OPEN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROHIBIT THE ENTRANCE OF INDIVIDUALS ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY WERE ON A PRIVATE VISIT.

6. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TOOK THE OCCASION TO DISCUSS THE DEPARTMENT'S STRONG CONCERN REGARDING THE SEATING OF THE DELEGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA AND SECONDARILY THE QUESTION OF THE KOREAN RESOLUTIONS AND ASKING FOR PRESIDENT KHAMA'S VIEWS ON THESE TWO QUESTIONS.

7. KHAMA AND HIS STAFF ARE SOMEWHAT VAGUE REGARDING THEIR POLICY ON THESE QUESTIONS AND IT APPEARS THAT THE GOB HAS NOT YET REACHED A DECISION ON THEM (SEE SEPTTEL).

8. MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE WAS PRODUCTIVE SEMINAR ON BOTSWANA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES. THREE PROBLEMS WERE HIGHLIGHTED INCLUDING THE SELEBI-PIKWE COPPER/NICKEL SMELTER PROBLEM, THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL ABATTOIR IN THE NORTH AND THE EFFECTS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS WHICH HAVE RAISED THE COST OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY 50 PERCENT DURING THE PAST YEAR. THE VICE PRESIDENT ALSO NOTED DIFFICULTY WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND (UBLS) WHICH HIS PERMANENT SECRETARY DELINEATED AS THE RELUCTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON PLANS FOR DEVOLUTION. MASIRE AND HERMAS ENCOURAGED THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WHILE IN LESOTHO.

9. VISIT WITH MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS SEGOKGO GAVE THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR
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THE BOTSWANA POLICY REGARDING POSSIBLE U.S. INVESTMENTS IN MINERAL EXPLOITATION WHICH SEGOKGO CHARACTERIZED AS ASSURING THAT INVESTORS RECEIVE A "FAIR AND REASONABLE RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT."

10. ROUND OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS CONCLUDED WITH UPBEAT CALL ON NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS A.M. (ARCHIE) MOGWE. MOGWE HIGHLIGHTED INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS APPROACH THAT "WE ARE NOW BREATHING A NEW AIR OF RELIEF AFTER SOME YEARS OF STAGNATION." MOGWE OPINED THAT THERE ARE CHANGES BEGINNING IN MOZAMBUQUE AND ANGOLA PARTICULARLY.

11. ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE VALUE OF RECENT U.K., ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA MEETINGS IN

LONDON. MOGWE SAID HE FELT MEETINGS HAD COME AT A DIFFICULT TIME BECAUSE BRITISH WERE ON THE VERGE OF ELECTIONS AND WERE THEREFORE CAGEY AND RELUCTANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, MOGWE FELT THE MEETINGS WERE OF SOME VALUE IN THAT THE AFRICANS HAD GIVEN THE BRITISH "A USEFUL NEDGE." HE AFFIRMED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

12. MOGWE HOSTED LARGE RECEPTION AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HONORING EASUM. MINISTERS, DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND OTHER PRINCIPAL PERSONALITIES TURNED OUT. DURING DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR IN EASUM'S HONOR MOGWE INFORMED US THAT PRESIDENT KHAMA HAD DEPARTED SHORTLY AFTER MORNING MEETING FOR RENDEZVOUS IN LUSAKA WITH KUANDA AND OTHERS. DINNER ALSO INCLUDED AS GUESTS VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE, MINISTER OF HEALTH NWAKO AND MINISTER OF MINERALS SEGOKGO.

13. NOVEMBER 8 WAS LARGELY OCCUPIED WITH VISIT TO BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION ABATTOIR IN LOBATSE, WHICH IS REPUTEDLY LARGEST IN AFRICA AND BOTSWANA'S LARGEST EXPORT EARNER. PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDED LUNCHEON HOSTED BY MINISTER NWAKO.

14. VISIT CONCLUDED WITH PRESS CONFERENCE IN EMBASSY ATTENDED BY LOCAL RADIO AND PRESS AS WELL AS SABC AND STRINGERS FROM RAND DAILY MAIL AND ARGUS. QUESTIONS FOLLOWED LINES
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PREVIOUSLY REPORTED HIGHLIGHTING CONCERNS REGARDING OUR VETO OF SOUTH AFRICAN EXPULSION, THE JOHNSON VISIT AND OUR ATTITUDE AND POLICY TOWARD CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

15. COMMENT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM WAS WARMLY AND CORDIALLY RECEIVED HERE. HIS VISIT MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IN PROMOTING BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POLICIES AND ACTIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES AND IN DEMONSTRATING U.S. INTEREST IN BOTSWANA'S DEVELOPMENT.
BOLEN

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